

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED STUDY ON FUTURE OF INDUSTRIALIZED
SOCIETIES

REF: (A) CES/75.67

(B) CES/75.67 (FIRST REVISION)

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FOLLOWING ARE OUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS, AS REQUESTED BY THE
SECRETARIAT, ON THE PROPOSED STUDY.

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1. STRUCTURE

A. WE BELIEVE THE FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE THE SELECTION OF PROJECT DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTORS FOR THE STUDY. THEY SHOULD BE OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE CALIBER WITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARLY REPUTATIONS, AND WILLING TO DEVOTE MORE OR LESS FULL TIME TO THE PROJECT FOR ITS DURATION (IE., ABOUT THREE YEARS). A BALANCED LEADERSHIP MIGHT BEST CONSIST OF A DIRECTOR AND TWO OR MORE DEPUTY DIRECTORS . THE DIRECTOR SHOULD REFLECT IN HIS EXPERIENCE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTER-DISCIPLINARY ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. THIS LEADERSHIP WOULD THEN PROCEED TO DEVELOP MORE SPECIFICALLY THE WORK AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECT.

B. WE BELIEVE A STEERING COMMITTEE MADE UP OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD GIVE OVERALL GUIDANCE TO THE STUDIES UNDERTAKEN. THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD INSURE THAT THE STUDIES ARE ORIENTED IN AREAS OF DIRECT OR POTENTIALLY USEFUL POLICY RELEVANCE TO GOVERNMENTS AND ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO EXISTING OR ON GOING POLICY ORIENTED RESEARCH. IN ADDITION, WE MAY WISH TO HAVE AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS NOT REPRESENTING GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE BROADER PERSPECTIVE TO THE STUDY.

2. TOPICS FOR STUDY

A. IN REF (A) THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSED FOUR MAIN TOPICS FOR STUDY: (1) FUTURE ECONOMIC, MONETARY AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES; (2) FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; (3) LONG TERM NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS; AND (4) LONG TERM SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS. EACH OF THESE TOPICS SEEMS TO HAVE MERIT FOR STUDY. HOWEVER, IN THE SUGGESTED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY, MANY ASPECTS OF THESE FOUR TOPICS COULD OVERLAP. ONE WAY OF PROCEEDING WOULD BE TO START WITH SOME ALTERNATIVE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT RATES OF CHANGE OF BASIC SELECTED VARIABLES SUCH AS POPULATION AND OUTPUT GROWTH

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OVER THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN ORDER TO GIVE SOME GENERAL IDEA OF THE DIRECTION OF DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG OECD COUNTRIES AND WITH LDCS AND OTHERS. ONCE THESE RELATIONSHIPS OVER TIME HAVE BEEN SKETCHED WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE, WE COULD BETTER JUDGE THE SPECIFIC AREAS FOR THE TEAM TO INVESTIGATE.

B. WE BELIEVE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ATTEMPT OVERLY RIGID

BREAKDOWN NOW OF SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE STUDIED. THE PROJECT LEADERS AND THE RESEARCH TEAM SHOULD BE GIVEN REASONABLE LATITUDE IN DETERMINING THE SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR STUDY AND METHODOLOGY, SUBJECT ONLY TO GENERAL GUIDANCE BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE.

3. THESE THOUGHTS ARE OF COURSE ONLY PRELIMINARY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REPORTS ABOUT THE THOUGHTS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND ESPECIALLY A MORE DETAILED SUGGESTION BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR US TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9-10. INGERSOLL

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